



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
P.O. Box 524  
Newark, California 94560-0524  
(510) 792-0222

March 26, 2005

Amy Chan  
City Manager  
City of Sunnyvale  
PO Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

Dear Ms. Chan:

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be opening certain former commercial salt ponds to waterfowl hunting for the 2005/2006 hunting season starting in October, 2005. One of the ponds that will be opened to hunting is accessed via Carl Road at the City's Treatment Plant. Specifically, the route passes through Carl Road along a Treatment Plant gravel road for about 100 yards to a gate controlled by Cargill, Inc. and then on to the Refuge's ponds.

In July 2004 I wrote the City requesting permission for hunters to be able to drive across the 100 yards of City property from Carl Road to Cargill's property. Based on a decision by the City Council, we were informed that the City would not allow hunters to drive across the subject City property. This letter is a request for the City to reconsider this decision.

I understand that the City Council's decision to deny vehicle access for hunters was based on their concern with safety on Pond A3W which is the closest pond to City property; and its lack of compatibility related to other uses by the public in the general vicinity of the pond.

The Refuge's Hunt Plan will limit hunting to existing blinds in the pond. When Cargill, Inc. owned these ponds, they were hunted for decades with the hunters driving from Carl Road to Pond A3W. There was never a safety problem with the Cargill hunt program which was more extensive than the program proposed by the Refuge. Shotgun pellets cover less than 100 yards. The Refuge's blinds are over 300 yards from public access trails on Sunnyvale lands. It is impossible for the shotgun pellets to reach City property.

Waterfowl hunters on Guadalupe Slough sometimes hunt within a few feet of the City's public trails on the City's treatment ponds. There are signs advising the public that the area is being hunted. We understand that after the signs were in place, there were few complaints. The Refuge believes hunting on Pond A3W will be compatible with the nearby public uses including those on City lands since the hunt area on Pond A3W is

over 300 yards from trails which is greater than existing separation of such uses on Guadalupe Slough and Sunnyvale lands.

If the City does not allow hunters to drive their vehicles from Carl Road to the Cargill gate, they will be forced to walk. I believe the public would prefer that the hunters safely drive this short section of gravel road than walk or bicycle with their hunting equipment, hunting dogs and on the return trip, their shot ducks. There would be less potential for conflict with the public if the hunters and their equipment would cross this road with their equipment in their vehicles.

During the waterfowl hunting season which usually is open from mid-October through the last week of January, the Refuge ponds will be open to hunting three days each week: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. On these days when the road is dry enough to allow hunter vehicles without damaging the levee roads, the Refuge will open the locked Cargill gate at the end of Carl Road before sunrise. Hunters will be allowed to drive the Cargill levee road to the Refuge ponds behind Moffett Field. The Refuge will relock the gate approximately after sunset. Only hunters with valid California Waterfowl hunting licenses and a Refuge permit will be allowed on the road. A hold harmless provision to protect the City of Sunnyvale will be included in the Refuge Special Use Permit. No other members of the public will be allowed in the area. The gate will remain closed on all non hunting days. The area will be patrolled daily by the Refuge law enforcement staff.

I request that the City reconsider its opposition to hunters driving to the Cargill gate from Carl Road. Please let me know if I could have an opportunity to speak with the City Council about this matter.

Sincerely,



Clyde Morris, Manager  
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge

cc: Public Works Director, Sunnyvale ✓  
California Waterfowl Association, Sacramento